

IN HONOR OF GORDON WEEKS

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2008

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Simi Valley Police Department Lieutenant Gordon Weeks, who retires today after 31½ years of dedicated and exceptional service to the department and the city it serves.

Simi Valley, California, has been my home for more than 40 years. When I was first elected to the City Council, Simi Valley's public safety was entrusted to the Simi Valley Community Safety Agency. Officers rode in white cars and wore light blue uniform shirts. It was an intentionally low-key and, some might say, casual approach to law enforcement.

Not long after my election to the council, I became the city's first elected mayor. A young officer approached me with his concerns about the image and functions of the Community Safety Agency and his ideas for professionalizing it. Our discussions, some of which occurred as I rode the streets of the city with officer Weeks in his patrol car, led to action. Soon the Simi Valley Community Safety Agency became the Simi Valley Police Department. White patrol cars were transformed into traditional black and whites. Community safety officers became trained and professional police officers and dressed the part.

Gordon Weeks was a pivotal force in bringing about those changes. He acted on his sense of professionalism and thereby helped to modernize Simi Valley's police force.

Gordon's influence over the maturity of the department did not end there. He remained at the forefront of building a professional police department. He was a founding member of the department's SWAT team and, after he was promoted to lieutenant in 1997, Gordon served 4 years as the SWAT commander.

Gordon also trained new recruits as a field training officer and later oversaw that program and the firearms training program for 3½ years.

As a Driving Under the Influence Team member for less than 2 years, Gordon arrested approximately 400 drunken drivers. For 2½ years he solved property and violent crimes as a detective. He was a patrol sergeant for 8 years. He worked as a background investigator. He served as a patrol watch commander and patrol administrative lieutenant.

Always, Gordon Weeks served as a professional. And the Police Department Lieutenant Weeks leaves behind today has his mark on it, for the better. Our collaboration and my respect for his dedication and professionalism has led to a long and lasting friendship.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in thanking Lieutenant Gordon Weeks for more than three decades of dedication and professionalism to the Simi Valley Police Department and in wishing him well in a long and fruitful retirement. Godspeed, Gordy.

EMPLOYEES' LETTER ON R&D TAX CREDIT

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2008

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Research and Development tax credit, a credit which has been championed here in the House by my friend and colleague, Representative SANDER LEVIN. He has authored legislation to extend this important credit and I have joined him in this effort.

Today, I want to highlight a letter sent to all Members of Congress signed by 3,400 American workers, representing 43 States and well over 100 U.S. companies, ranging from small to large. In this letter, these workers in the research industry urge us to extend and strengthen the R&D tax credit, which expired on December 31, 2007.

Already, the House has passed legislation to extend the R&D tax credit. But our Senate colleagues have been unable to do the same. As many of my colleagues already realize, this tax credit is like no other. Without this credit, much of this innovative research would likely migrate to other countries, many which offer their own incentives.

Congress needs to enact a seamless and retroactive extension of this credit to ensure that these highpaying technology jobs stay in America.

As the 3,400 workers in the R&D industry aptly stated in their letter to Congress:

We write to you—from companies across the country both large and small—to address an issue that we believe will affect the likelihood that high-skilled jobs such as ours are located in our communities and in our country.

Simply put, we are dismayed that Congress has allowed the R&D tax credit to expire. We know that most of you have lauded the benefits of the credit, and we appreciate this support. We urge you to act now to enact into law an extension of a strengthened credit because research-dependent jobs are at stake.

I ask that this letter be included in the RECORD immediately following my comments.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to contact their counterparts in the Senate to demand immediate action on tax extenders. American workers are waiting and these jobs are simply too good to lose.

SEPTEMBER 10, 2008.

Hon. Harry Reid,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER REID: Our country has always been a hospitable place for invention. It is a reflection of our values and ingenuity. Government policies such as the R&D tax credit are expressions of our desire to innovate and create.

We write to you—from companies across the country both large and small—to address an issue that we believe will affect the likelihood that high-skilled jobs such as ours are located in our communities and in our country.

Simply put, we are dismayed that Congress has allowed the R&D tax credit to expire. We know that most of you have lauded the benefits of the credit, and we appreciate this support. We urge you to act now to enact into law an extension of a strengthened credit because research-dependent jobs are at stake.

The signatures you see on this letter represent just some of the tens of thousands of real people who have benefited positively from the effects of the credit over the past 26 years. You can read studies and surveys, but we are living proof that the vast majority of R&D credit dollars go directly to pay the wages of highly skilled American workers.

Between high gas prices and falling home values, it is a difficult time for all Americans. As you work to boost U.S. economic activity, please act quickly to reinstate and strengthen a program with a track record of more than two decades of success. We thank you for your commitment to our country and to U.S. workers.

Sincerely,

Signed by 3,400 workers in the R&D industry.

AMERICAN HISTORY

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2008

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, when the first rays of daylight broke on the Lexington Green on April 19, 1775, "the shot heard round the world" was fired as British soldiers and American patriots clashed and sparked the war for American independence. A month later, on May 20, 1775, delegates of the citizens of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, adopted their declaration of independence that "Resolved, That we the citizens of Mecklenburg County, do hereby dissolve the political bands which have connected us to the Mother Country, and hereby absolve ourselves from all allegiance to the British Crown, and abjure all political connection, contract, or association, with that Nation, who have wantonly trampled on our rights and liberties and inhumanly shed the innocent blood of American patriots at Lexington."

Delegates to the Second Continental Congress declared American independence on July 4, 1776, by stating that "these colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States" and in support of that declaration mutually pledged to each other their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor. General George Washington led an army of American patriots through the American Revolution. This army lacked everything but courage, shouldered every burden and adversity, and persevered for 8 long years to secure blessings of liberty for themselves and their posterity.

The liberty of our Nation was supported by the largesse of France's King Louis XVI and Spain's King Carlos III and secured by the daring of Europe's elite military officers, including La Fayette, Rochambeau, von Steuben, Pulaski, Galvez, and others.

The surrender of British forces under the command of General Lord John Cornwallis at the Battle of Yorktown on October 19, 1781, to the allied forces under the command of General George Washington and General Comte de Rochambeau set the stage for peace initiatives abroad. As such, Congress appointed Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and John Jay to represent the United States and David Hartley was appointed by Great Britain's King George III to negotiate terms for peace.

On September 3, 1783, the peace commissioners of the United States and Great Britain